

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9877
INFO: RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 1980
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MADRID
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PINT HU
SUBJECT: HUNGARY AND THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

1. SUMMARY. HUNGARIANS SENT TOP DELEGATION TO MOSCOW FOR 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION. THEIR LEADERS AND MEDIA FOR PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN LAVISH BUT NOT FULL-SOME IN THEIR PRAISE OF SOVIETS. THEY HAVE DONE WHAT THEY CAN WITH WORDS TO ASSURE SOVIETS OF THEIR LOYALTY BUT IN DOING SO HAVE SIGNALLED NO CHANGES IN THEIR PREVIOUSLY ENUNCIATED POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

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2. HSWP FIRST SECRETARY JANOS KADAR, PRESIDENT PAL LOSONSCI, AND PRIME MINISTER GYORGY LAZAR ALL JOURNEYED TO SOVIET UNION FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION. AFTER THE JUBILEE MEETING IN THE KREMLIN KADAR TRAVELED TO KIEV WHERE HE GAVE SPEECH AND LAZAR TO YAROSLAV WHERE HE ALSO SPOKE. LOSONCZI ON NOV 4 RETURNED TO BUDAPEST TO LEAD

CELEBRATIONS HERE. OTHERS REMAINED IN USSR UNTIL NOV 9.

3. SPEECHES WHICH KADAR, LOSONCZI, AND KADAR MADE WERE STRONG ON PRAISE OF SOVIET ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PADDED WITH LENGTHY TEDIOUS REVIEWS OF GLORIOUS SOVIET HISTORY AND FULL OF AFFIRMATIONS OF IDENTITY BETWEEN SOVIET AND HUNGARIAN INTERESTS. ONE OR ANOTHER OF THREE PRAISED SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND DETENTE, ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AND ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY HUNGARY. HUNGARIAN LEADERS AND MEDIA CITED NEW SOVIET CONSTITUTION AS SHINING EXAMPLE FOR WORLD. KADAR EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO LAUD CONSTITUTION AS GUARANTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOVIET UNION. SOVIETS ALSO CITED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION THROUGH CEMA AND SECURITY OF SOCIALIST STATES SECURITY THROUGH WARSAW PACT. KADAR IN HIS TWO MAJOR SPEECHES REFERRED TO HUNGARIAN SOVIET REPUBLIC OF 1919 AND EARLY SUPPORT THUS SHOWN TO RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS.

4. OVER WEEKEND NOV 4-7, PRINTED MEDIA WERE MONOPOLIZED BY ARTICLES AND REPRINTS OF SPEECH YPCMHQCE
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ANNIVERSARY, ELECTRONIC MEDIA ALSO PREOCCUPIED WITH 60TH BUT TO LESSER DEGREE. CEREMONIES WERE HELD IN BUDAPEST AT SOVIET HEROS MEMORIAL ON NOV 6 AND LENIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATUE AS WELL. THROUGHOUT COUNTRY SIMILAR COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES WERE HELD. LARGE CROWDS WERE NOT IN EVIDENCE AND HUNGARIAN PEOPLE NOT CALLED UPON TO PLAY OFFICIAL PART IN CEREMONIES FOR MOST PART IGNORED 60TH.

5. NOV 7 SOVIETS GAVE A RECEPTION WHICH AMBASSADOR ATTENDED.

6. LOSONCZI, KADAR AND LAZAR NOTED SOCIAL AIMS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TODAY WITHOUT EXPERIENCE OF SOVIET UNION. THEY ALSO PRAISED VALUE IN CONTINUED DRAWING ON THAT EXPERIENCE FOR FURTHER BUILDING OF SOCIALISM IN HUNGARY. HOWEVER, LOSONCZI REPEATED NOW STANDARD HSWP LINE THAT NATIONAL PECULIARITIES MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AND THERE CAN BE NO MECHANICAL COPYING. SIMILARLY, WHILE HUNGARIANS FOR MOST PART AVOIDED CONTENTIOUS "EUROCOMMUNIST" ISSUES THEY QUIETLY MAINTAINED IN BRIEF PASSAGES IN THEIR OTHERWISE LENGTHY REMARKS THEIR POSITION OF CONDEMNING ANTI-SOVIETISM BUT ASSERTING INDEPENDENCE OF EACH COMMUNIST PARTY AND SEPARATE VALIDITY OF EACH NATIONAL SITUATION. (THIS POINT IS DISCUSSED FURTHER IN SEPTEL.)
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